

MINUTES

OF THE

TENTH SPRING SESSION

OF THE

BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH THE

Pleasant Hill Church, Iredell County, N. C.,

MAY 5th, 6th and 7th, 1894.

ALSO OF THE

Sixty-third Annual, or Fall Session,

HELD WITH THE

Lawyers' Spring Church, Anson County, N. C.,

OCTOBER 6th, 7th and 8th, 1894.

Compiled by J. W. JONES, Clerk, White Store, N. C.

BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Proceedings of the Spring Session.

PLEASANT HILL, Iredell County, N. C. }
May 5th, 1894. }

Introductory sermon by Elder Jesse Brown, from 8th chapter 24th verse of St. John. "I said therefore unto you that ye shall die in your sins, for if ye believe not that I am he," etc. Intermission of 30 minutes, after which the Association assembled in the house. Praise, and prayer by Elder J. F. Mills. The Moderator being absent, Elder Mills by request acted as temporary moderator.

1. Called for and read the letters from the several churches in this Association and their status minuted. (See table.)

2. Appointed Elder J. F. Mills Moderator and J. W. Jones Clerk.

3. Invited the visiting brethren to seats.

4. Invited visiting brethren of sister associations to seats. Elder I. P. Bean and brethren J. H. Borroughs, S. C. Lanier, J. A. and Madison Williams, of Abbotts Creek, took seats.

5. Appointed on Committee of Arrangements Elders I. P. Bean, Jesse Brown and Brother W. H. Poplin, with moderator and clerk.

6. That Elders I. P. Bean, Jesse Brown and J. F. Mills occupy the stand on to-morrow, services at 9 o'clock, a. m.

7. Adjourned until half past nine o'clock Monday morning. Benediction by the Moderator.

While the Association was in session in the house, Elder I. P. Bean preached at the stand, Text Deuteronomy 32nd chapter, 1 and 2 verses. "Give ear O ye heavens and I will speak," etc.

SUNDAY SERVICES, May 6th.

Opened by Elder J. F. Mills from 1st verse of 103rd Psalm. "Bless the Lord O my soul," etc. Elder I. P. Bean followed, Text 119th Psalm, 114th verse. "Thou art my hiding place and my shield, I hope in thy word." Intermission one hour, after which Elder Jesse Brown preached. Text, 45th Psalm, 10th verse. "Hearken O daughter and consider and incline thine ear," etc. The word was spoken in faithfulness and much assurance.

MONDAY MORNING, May 7th.

Opened with praise and prayer by Elder I. P. Bean.

8. Called on Committee of Arrangements to report. Report received, committee discharged.

9. Called names of Messengers, noted absentees thus *, and read rules of Decorum.

10. Called on Presbyteries to report. Elder J. F. Mills reports that himself with Elders S. C. Little, and J. C. William formed a presbytery at Crooked Creek church and ordained Brother J. E. Williams, a member of that church, to the full work of the gospel ministry.

11. That we extend thanks to this church and people of this vicinity for kindness and hospitality during this meeting. Also thanks to Richmond & Danville R. R. for the benefit of reduced rates to this meeting.

12. Adjourned. Benediction by the Moderator.

J. W. JONES,

Clerk.

ELDER J. F. MILLS,

Moderator.

Monday, while the Association was in session in the house, Elders I. P. Bean and Jesse Brown preached at the stand. Elder Brown's text, 8th verse of 32 chapter of Deuteronomy. Elder Bean's text, 16th verse of 66th Psalm. We had a very comfortable meeting indeed.

J. W. JONES, Clerk.

Statistical Table. Spring Session, 1894.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	By Exp'rince	Baptized	Rec by Letter	Restored	Dis by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	In fellowship
Bear Creek.....	E. N. Herren, E. F. Huneycutt, Green Almond.*	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	22
Bethany.....	A. D. Manass,* P. Vaugh,* N. G. Jones, Jr.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Crooked Creek.	Elder J. E. Williams,* H. M. Williams,* W. R. Helmes.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Freedom.....	Elder Jesse Brown, W. H. Poplin, J. A. Holt.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
High Hill.....	J. J. Hill,* Myers Medlin, Josiah Baucom.*	..	..	1	1	1	2	1	56
Jones Hill.....	Elder S. C. Little,* A. F. Huneycutt, A. Helmes.*	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	19
Jerusalem.....	Joe Thomas, Ben Thomas, James Medlin.*	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	120
Liberty Hill....	Elder N. M. Clark,* J. C. Gilbert,* A. Smith.*	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	15
Liberty.....	By Letter.....	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	21
Lawyers Spring	Stanly Edwards, T. Tyson, J. W. Jones.	2	2	..	..	..	..	228	..
Meadow Creek.	J. A. Barbee,* A. Almond.* E. Barbee.....	6	5	1	..	..	..	221	..
Mountain Creek	Not Represented.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pleasant Hill...	J. S. Norris.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Watson.....	Elder J. F. Mills, A. Baucom,* S. L. Mullis.*	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	17

Absentees marked thus *

Proceedings of the Fall Session, 1894.

LAWYER'S SPRING, Anson County, N. C., }
October 6th, 1894. }

Introductory sermon by Eld. N. M. Clark. Text: Eph. first chapter and seventh verse. "In whom we have redemption through his blood," etc. After thirty minutes intermission the Association assembled in the house. Praise, and prayer by Eld. J. E. Adams.

1. Called for and read the letters from the several churches in the association and their status minuted. (See table.)

2. Appointed Eld. S. C. Little Moderator and J. W. Jones Clerk.

3. Opened the door for the reception of churches into membership of the Association. A newly organized church of the Primitive Baptist faith and order at Howard's Chapel, in Stanly County, N. C., also one of same faith and order at Union Grove, in Union county, N. C. asked for admittance to membership, they having sent delegates and contributions, were duly received and seated in Council by the Moderator extending to them the right hand of fellowship.

4. Called for correspondence of sister Associations. Eld. I. P. Bean, of Abbotts Creek, took his seat. Also minutes from Mill Branch, Silver Creek and Mountain Dist. Associations were read.

5. Invited visiting brethren of other associations to seats. Eld. J. E. Adams took his seat.

6. Appointed on Committee of arrangements: Eld. Jesse Brown, Brethren S. L. Mullis, H. M. Williams, Jr., with Moderator and Clerk.

7. Appointed on committee of finance, brethren Myers Medlin and Ephriam Barbee.

8. That Elders J. D. Adams, I. P. Bean and G. L. Chaney occupy the stand on tomorrow, services to begin at ten o'clock, A. M.

9. Called on Eld. Brown for the Circular Letter. It was handed in and referred to committee of arrangements.

10. Adjourned until half past nine Monday morning. Benediction by Moderator.

While the Association was in session in the house, Elders J. E. Adams and I. P. Bean preached at the stand. Their texts unknown to the Clerk.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7th.

Services opened by Eld. J. E. Adams, using as a text the last verse of the 6th chapter of Romans. "For the wages of sin is death," etc. Eld. Bean followed. Text, 17th verse of the 1st chapter of St. John. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." Elder Chaney closed the services. Text, 5th and 6th verses of 114th Psalm.

MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 8TH.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise, and prayer by the Moderator.

11. Report of Committee of Arrangements called for, submitted, adopted and committee discharged.

12. Called names of messengers, noted absentees thus *, and read rules of Decorum.

13. Called on corresponding messengers to sister Associations to report. Elder J. F. Mills reports that himself with Elder J. C. Williams, and brethren E. F. Huneycutt and Stanly Edwards attended the Abbotts Creek Union and were received in fellowship.

14. Called on Presbyteries to report. Elder Jesse Brown reports that himself with Elder S. C. Little formed a Presbytery at Howards Chapel and organized and constituted a church of the Primitive Baptist faith and order. Elder G. L. Chaney also reports that himself with Elders Gardner Bryan and J. E. Williams formed a Presbytery at Union Grove, and organized and constituted a church of same faith and order. Also Eld. J. E. Williams reports that himself with Eld. J. C. Williams formed a Presbytery at Union Grove and restored Elder G. L. Chaney to the former functions of his office as a gospel minister.

15. Appointed corresponding messengers to sister associations as follows: To Abbotts Creek Union—Brethren G. Almond, E. F. Huneycutt, B. F. and W. E. Williams, and Elders G. L. Chaney and J. E. Williams. To Mill Branch, File of minutes. To Silver Creek, Eld. G. L. Chaney and file of minutes. To Center, Eld. G. L. Chaney and file of

minutes. To Mountain Dist., Eld. G. L. Chaney and file of minutes. To Cool Springs, Eld. J. Brown and file of minutes.

16. That we have our Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum published in the minutes.

17. Treasurer reports funds on hand from last year \$5.42.

18. Committee on finance reports sent up by the churches this year \$18.12.

19. Read and approved the circular letter prepared by Eld. Jesse Brown and ordered attached to these minutes.

20. That the Clerk prepare a circular letter for our next minutes.

21. That the Clerk superintend and have printed 500 copies of these minutes, distribute as usual; and that he have \$8.00 for his services.

22. That we request the clerk to have the times and sittings of this association published in Zion's Landmark.

23. That the next spring session of this association be held with the Freedom church in Stanly county, N. C., commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in May 1895, and that Eld S. C. Little preach the introductory sermon, Elder N. M. Clark be his alternate, and that the fall session be held with Liberty church, Union county, N. C., commencing on Saturday before the first Sunday in October 1895, Elder J. E. Williams to preach the introductory sermon, and Elder J. F. Mills his alternate.

24. That we have published in these minutes the annual communion meeting time of each church, for the benefit of sister churches.

25. That we request each church to consider the feasibility of dividing and making two associations of the churches that now compose the Bear Creek Association. Also that we request each church to further consider whether or not they would prefer continuing the spring session as it now stands, or remain undivided and adopt the old fifth Sunday Union meetings that were in vogue prior to the adoption of the spring session, and report which plan they prefer (and if neither, so report) to our next association at Freedom, in May 1895.

26. That we return thanks to God, this church, and people of the vicinity for kindness and hospitality during this meeting.

27. Adjourned to times and places above mentioned in these minutes.

On account of the inclement weather Monday morning the Association met in the schoolhouse, and Elder I. P. Bean and J. C. Williams preached in the church. Elder Williams' text the 40th chapter and 10th verse of Isaiah: "Behold the Lord God will come with a strong hand," etc. Elder Bean preached from the words "One Lord, one faith, one hope, one baptism." The word was preached with power and in demonstration of true spirit. While singing a hymn to dismiss one willing convert came forward as on the day of Pentecost and related the dealings of the good Lord toward him and was added to the earthly kingdom. We believe the Lord was in the place, and that to own and bless. Dismissed by Elder S. C. Little.

ELDER S. C. LITTLE,

J. W. JONES, Clerk.

Moderator.

White Store, Anson County, N. C.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1st. We believe in one only living and true God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

Art. 2. We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all God's perfection in nature, providence, grace and glory, and in relative union with the Divine Word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Art. 3. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain the only written revealed word of God, and are the only perfect rule of faith and practice for God's church in her militant state while here on earth.

Art. 4. We believe the doctrine of Election, that God chose His church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Art. 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam their federal head.

Art. 6. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

Art. 7. We believe in the impotency of man to recover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Art. 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and his righteousness only.

Art. 9. We believe that God's elect or church shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Art. 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

Art. 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the supper ; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men.

Art. 12. We believe that no man as a minister has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptised, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular presbytery.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, and a general judgment.

Art. 14. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. A Moderator or chief speaker and clerk may be chosen by the suffrages of the members present, and the chief Moderator shall take his seat at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned, and, after prayer, shall proceed to business. It shall be his duty to keep order, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as that of another member, provided he appoint one of the members to fill the chair during the exercise of such privilege, and in no case shall he give a vote unless the Association be equally divided.

2nd. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the chief speaker by the appellation of brother, and while speaking shall confine himself strictly to the subject in question and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject, and shall in nowise reflect on any speaker so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly give his own views of the case without sophistry or criticism.

3rd. No person shall speak more than three times to one subject, without leave of the Association.

4th. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

5th. No member of the Association shall address any other member by any other term or name than that of "brother."

6th. The chief Speaker or Moderator shall not interrupt one member to prohibit him from speaking unless his speech is finished, except he break the rules of decorum.

7th. The names of all the members of this Association shall be enrolled by the clerk, and be called over as often as the Association may require.

8th. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break or violate any of the foregoing rules of this Association shall be reproved by the Association in any way they may think most proper.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Ministers and Messengers who compose the Bear Creek Association which convenes with the Lawyer's Spring Church, Anson County, N. C., on Saturday before the 1st Sunday in October, 1894:

DEAR BRETHREN: Having been appointed to write a circular letter for our minutes, I will try to comply. I have chosen the language of the 3rd verse of II Psalm: "If the Foundations be Destroyed, What can the Righteous do?" I propose to write for the comfort of God's children, trusting in Him to guide my pen. We understand these mentioned in the text to be the children of God, the zion or church of God or Christ, Who is the foundation of the church, for God said: "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner-stone—a sure foundation." Let us consider this sure foundation. We understand that He was in the beginning with God and who was the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature, and by Him were all things created that are in Heaven and on earth, visible or invisible, whether they be thrones, dominions, principalities or powers. All things were created by and for Him, and He is before all, and by Him all things consist and He is the head of the church, the first born from the dead, that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. Now, we find there is no power above Him. We do rejoice to feel that He is able to save us who trust in Him, and though we are ignorant, He is wisdom, righteousness and redemption for us. We also have sanctification in Him and we are His workmanship, created in Christ, chosen in Him and called unto virtue and glory. We are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. Oh, what a sure foundation in Whom we are builded together for a habitation of God through the spirit! Blessed thought that He shall dwell in us and we in Him. Oh, matchless grace! Oh, the love of Christ which passeth knowledge! Oh, the Lord is merciful and gracious! Slow to anger and plenteous in mercy, He will not always chide, neither will He keep His anger forever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities, for as the heaven is high above the earth so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him, and He has removed our sins as far from us as the East is from the West, and as we pity our children so the Lord pitieth us, for He remembereth that we are but dust, and He has blotted out as a thick cloud all our transgressions and sins and says, "return unto Me, for I have redeemed thee," and we are saved with an everlasting salvation. So, in Jesus shall Israel be justified and glorified. We are God's husbandry, God's building, and we are built upon the stone, that precious and tried stone, the sure foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, who is the Shepherd and Savior of Israel. See Gen. 49. 24: "And He is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls." Oh, my brethren, take courage! God has given Eternal Life and this life is in Jesus, and when He who is our Life shall appear, we also shall appear with Him in glory. Oh, how precious is the name of Jesus to us that believe! He has said: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die," and also that, "He is the Resurrection

and the Life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." My kindred in the Lord, my brethren and sisters, can you, from your heart, say, with David: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want?" Has He ever made you to live in green pastures or led you beside the still waters? If so, do you not feel that you should honour Him, that you should glorify Him in your body and with your spirit, which is God's?

To the Elders, let me say: Give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not your gift. Study on these things. Paul says give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all, and take heed to your ministry; see that thou full it. Now, brethren and sisters, I beseech you to know them which labor among you and over you in the Lord. Paul says esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Oh, children of God, you have neglected to minister to your preachers. God is too wise and too good to lay upon us more than is right. He will not prompt you to give to your pastor more than is due him; neither will God continue to burden the minister with the weight of serving churches when he is greatly neglected by the church. Paul says, ye are to know them, know them how? To know how they are living, to be careful to know of their necessities? Do you ever ask your preacher how he is making out at home? Do you try to know your preacher in this sense? Oh, brethren, your pastor and his family should be considered among you, and if you have any members among you that is needy it is your duty to help them. Do you believe that he that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord and that which he hath given will He pay him again? Oh, my brethren, there is that that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that which holdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty! Whatsoever a man sow that shall he also reap. If you sow sparingly you will reap sparingly, for God is not mocked. If you walk in the light as He is in the light ye have fellowship one with another. The blood of Christ is sufficient to cleanse from all sin. Oh, if we live in the Spirit we can walk in it, for the Lord has promised to, feed His flock like a shepherd and to carry the lambs in His arms. Oh, brethren, we should carry the weak sheep and lambs in the bosom of our affection and administer unto them as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Let us tell them of that great inheritance which is undefiled and fadeth not away and laid up in Heaven. Oh, what a safe place for us who are kept by the power of God through faith, ready to be revealed in the last time! Oh, blessed thought, we don't have to keep ourselves! What comfort to feel that we have a crown of glory that is layed up in Heaven which the righteous Judge shall give us that love His appeasing. Oh, how I do love His first visit to me, and He has not left me comfortless! Oh, how I do cherish the thought that I shall rise in His likeness and be like Him; then I shall be satisfied.

Now may the Lord lead us in a plain path that we may go to a City of Habitation that hath foundation, is my prayer.

Yours in Christ,
JESSE BROWN.

Statistical Table. Fall Session, 1894.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS.	By Exp'r'ince	Baptized	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dis by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	In fellowship	Con's. for Minutes.
Bear Creek....	E. N. Herren, G. Almond, E. F. Huneycutt.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	\$ 1 50
Bethany.....	P. Vaughn, N. G. Jones, Jr., A. D. Manass.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1 10
Crooked Creek.	Elder J. E. Williams, H. M. Williams, Jr., E. C. Williams.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	21	1 25
Freedom.....	Elder Jesse Brown, J. A. Holt.*.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	70
High Hill.....	Myers Medlin, J. J. Hill, Josiah Baucom.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	41	1 60
Howards Chapel	W. H. Poplin, Henry Carpenter.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	50
Jones Hill.....	Elder S. C. Little, A. F. Huneycutt,* A. Helmes.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	1 00
Jerusalem.....	James Godwin, Arch Helmes, Ashley Helms.....	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	23	1 50
Liberty Hill....	Elder N. M. Clark, J. C. Gilbert,* A. Smith.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	57
Liberty.....	Elder J. C. Williams, W. E. Williams, B. F. Williams.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	22	55
Lawyers Spring	C. P. Griffin, Colman Ponds, Henderson Ashcraft.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	28	2 00
Meadow Creek.	A. Barbee, Ephriam Barbee, A. Almond.....	4	5	1	1	1	1	1	25	1 35
Mountain Creek	Amos Vanhoy,* J. A. Russell.*.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	1 00
Pleasant Hill....	J. S. Norris.*.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1 00
Union Grove....	Elder G. L. Chaney, Obid Baucom, J. T. Hill.*.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	1 00
Watson.....	Elder J. F. Mills, S. L. Mullis, Ashley Baucom.....	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	17	1 50
Totals.		1213	1	118	3	3	289	\$18	12	

Absentees marked thus *

Annual Communion Meetings.

CHURCHES.	CLERKS AND POSTOFFICES.	Annual Communion Meetings of Churches.
Bear Creek....	E. F. Huneycutt, Bloomington.	1st Sunday in Sept.
Bethany.....	N. G. Jones, Jr., Bennett.....	3rd Sunday in Aug.
Crooked Creek.	W. R. Helmes, Oak Grove...	3rd Sunday in Aug.
Freedom.....	J. A. Holt, Whitley.....	2nd Sunday in Sept.
High Hill.....	Myers Medlin, Monroe.....	1st Sunday in Sept.
Howards Chapel	W. H. Poplin, Efrd's Mill....	4th Sunday in Sept.
Jones Hill.....	A. F. Huneycutt, Bridgeport..	3rd Sunday in Sept.
Jerusalem.....	T. A. Helmes, Negrohead....	2nd Sunday in Aug.
Liberty Hill....	J. C. Gilbert, Big Lick.....	4th Sunday in July.
Liberty.....	J. W. Helmes, Monroe.....	2nd Sunday in July.
Lawyers Spring	J. W. Jones, White Store.....	1st Sunday in Aug.
Meadow Creek.	E. Barbee, Garmond.....	3rd Sunday in Aug.
Mountain Creek	Amos Vanhoy, Bilesville.....	2nd Sunday in Sept.
Pleasant Hill...	J. S. Norris, Rock Cut.....	Not known to Clerk.
Union Grove...	J. T. Hill, Monroe.....	2nd Sunday in Sept.
Watson.....	S. L. Mullis, Sincerity.....	4th Sunday in May.

The above dates represent regular monthly meeting time.

STATEMENT.

Funds on hand from last year,.....	\$ 5 42
Contributed by the Churches this year,.....	18 12
Total receipts,.....	\$23 54
Clerk's fee,.....	\$ 8 00
Printing Minutes,.....	13 00
Total,.....	\$21 00
Balance on Hand,.....	\$ 2 54

